

SPIN TO STITCH • WOOL YARNS FOR EMBROIDERY

# Spin·off

it's about making yarn by hand

## Mad for Punis

Irresistible Fiber Rolls

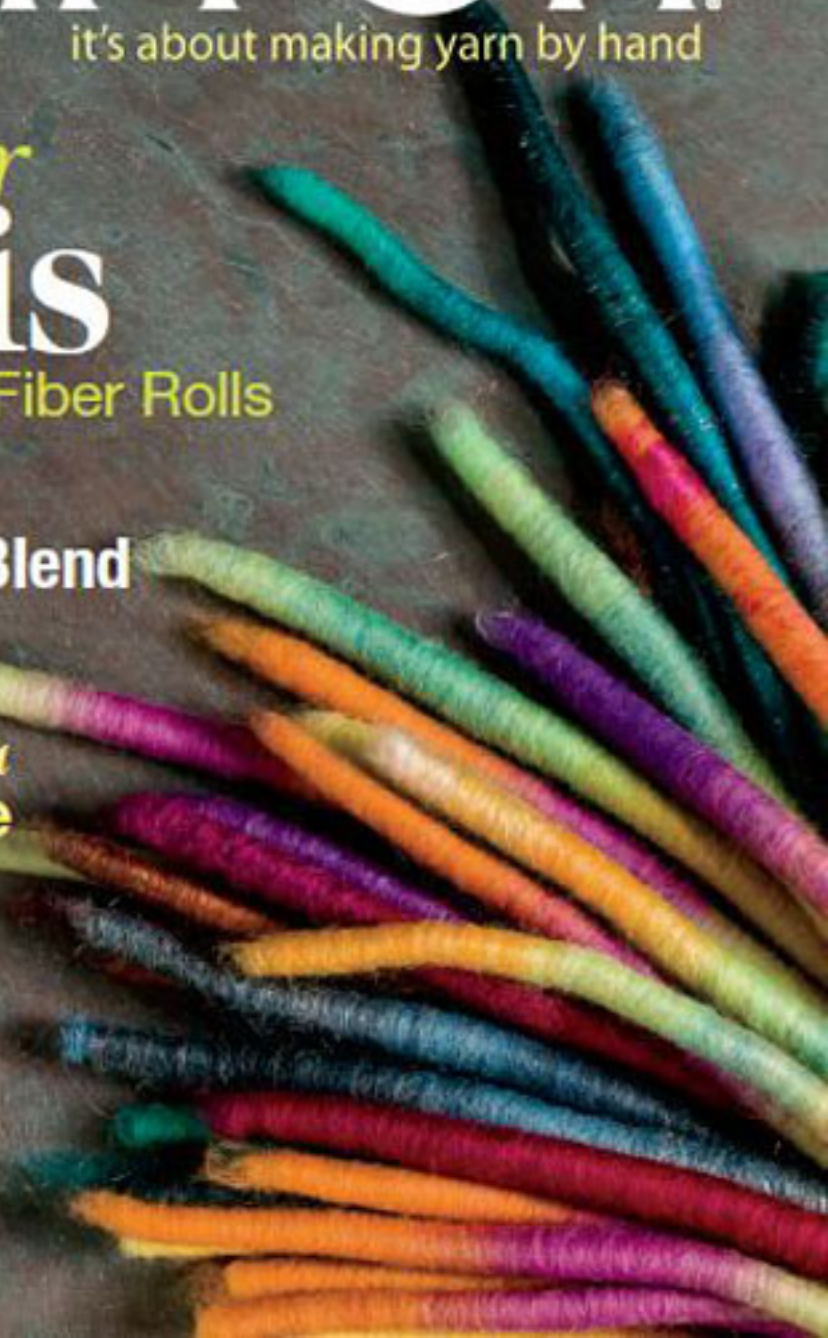
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WAYS TO  
Card & Blend

### *Don't Call it a Drop Spindle*

Abby Franquemont  
on Getting More  
from Your Spindles

SPRING 2016  
spinningdaily.com





My Story:

# A Curious Learning Journey

KYLE KUNNECKE

My alarm buzzes and beeps, and as I snooze my way into a new day, I see my Wolf Pup Loom waiting patiently. My Sidekick greets me with anticipation, anxious to go on a trip; knowing it fits perfectly into my luggage when we journey cross-country to a fiber arts retreat.



Kyle Kunnecke is a designer, maker, teacher, author, and volunteer. He believes that creativity has the power to heal and has been involved in using fiber arts as a tool to combat depression and anxiety. Kyle lives in San Francisco.  
[www.kylewilliam.com](http://www.kylewilliam.com)

When I first learned to knit, I found the repetitive rhythm meditative and knew I wanted to learn more about other fiber arts and how they might influence my knitting designs. In the beginning, spinning and weaving felt complicated, but I was continuously reminded that the textile arts hold a never-ending opportunity for creative expression... if I just give myself the gift of time, seek guidance, and have patience with myself. As I learned more, my interests expanded to dyeing yarns and roving, to weaving, and eventually, to spinning. I found the processes of spinning and weaving, like knitting, created a feeling of comfort, meditation, and calm.

My recent obsessions have been learning about the symbolism in Navajo

tapestry weaving, and cultural knitting and weaving traditions. Through time and across cultures, the fiber story begins with caring for animals and cleaning and carding the fiber, and then progresses to spinning, weaving, and/or knitting. I find at each turn new curiosities about fiber herds, fleece processing, and the preservation of rare sheep breeds;

I reflect on how textiles are used to show rank, convey emotion, and tell stories; I imagine the talented hands of other times and places.

I'm lucky to have a craft studio where my textile library, collection of tools, and bountiful materials provide inspiration. I learned early on to invest in quality tools so the process is as lovely as the finished work. My favorite tools and most treasured artifacts, however, take residence in my bedroom. Handspun, handknit hats from Peru, my Sidekick, Wolf Pup and a glass jar of rocks collected around the world, are among the last things I see each night; standing guard as I doze off to sleep after another day of making.



The Sidekick



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Below: Handspun yarn by Kyle Kunnecke.

